

## REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 10 are pending. Support for the amendment to claim 8 may be found in the specification as originally filed, for example, in page 6, line 1 to page 8, line 11.

**I. The Rejection Based on Mitchell et al. in view of Takechika**

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable Mitchell et al. in view of Takechika.

Claims 1-4, 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitchell et al. in view of Takechika and further in view of Dickenson.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated by or obvious over the disclosures of Mitchell and Takechika, alone or together with Dickinson, and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections in view of the following remarks.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Mitchell nor Takechika nor Dickinson disclose or render obvious a vacuum processing system comprising the claimed features, including the newly added features. Therefore, even if the cited art were combined, Applicants' invention would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 10 is neither taught by nor made obvious from the disclosures of Mitchell, alone or together with Dickinson, and it is requested that the rejections under §103 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111  
Application No. 10/806,149  
Attorney Docket No. 042188

**II. Conclusion**

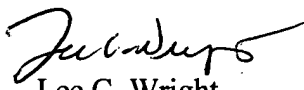
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that their claimed invention is allowable and ask that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 be reconsidered and withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local exchange number listed below.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

**WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP**



Lee C. Wright

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 41,441

Telephone: (202) 822-1100

Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

LCW/af